## THE OYSTER WAR.

THE OYSTER LAWS OF MARYLAND AND VIR-GINIA-OVSTER STATISTICS - SHALL THE GOV-ERNMENT CONTROL THE CHESAPEAKE FISH-ERIES T

[FROM O R SP. C.AL COMMISSIONER ] BALTIMORE, March 1 .- As early as 1602, an un

pleasantness arose between the young colonies of Maryland and Virginia, then hardly strong enough to stand alone; and two years before Leonard Calvert came over to plant the standard of Lord had given Lim, there were quarrelings, and bickerings, and fends between the ploneers in esse and in posse, all about the right of property in a lit-tle island in the "Great Bay of Chesapenke," and the trade with the Indians at certain points. Virginla's Governor, Clayborne, and his adherents, claimed the Island of Kent, the largest in the Chegapeake, and held that, under the Heense from the natives within the limits of its Maryland grant, to dicker with them wheresoever they might be found, and to cheat the dusky children of the wilds at any and all places without let or hindrance. The Mary and people opposed this claim with all their might. Kent Island was theirs by right. Virginia's acrewere bread and many, and she was old enough to get along in the world without crowding her younger sister. Maryland agreed that the waters of the be the common property of the two colonies; but be invaded. Kent Island, the first bone of contention, she made sacred to her own. It was in its latitude the very sea-mark of her sister's unnest sail to ward the rising sun, and so remained, despite all chorts to have the restriction removed. Petitions were drawn up by Chyberne, and forwarded to Lon don, but all to no purpose. In 1638, the Lord-Commissioners of the Conneil to whom the king had referred the case, decided "that the lands in question absolutely belonged to Lord Palcimore, and that no plantation or trade with the Indians ought to be allowed within the limits of his patent without his permission." This decision settled the Kent Island difficulty, and on the 4th of Outober, 1658, the Gavernor of Virginia, very much against his will, but it claimed that on and after the date of his proclama tion the people of Virginia should no longer use any commonly known by the name of Ocancock, on the northward from the river Chiaquack, called Great Wicomics, on the western side of the bay, without license from the Lord Baltimore," &c. [According to this proclamation, it may be inferred, says Romman's Maryland, " that the Eth degree of latitude was then deemed to cross the eastern shore of Virginia as low down in Accounted County as Ocancock Creek, or a least that the southern limits of Maryland extended that far South," in which case time has robbed the estate of about to square miles of almost barren land, and removed from her jurisdiction a population of 400 as ignorant citizens as ever gladdened the heart of a political demagogue. The territory of which Maryland has thus been despoiled is now a part of trick," and its free and independent voters, from time beyond the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, have consistently adhered to the principles of out-and-or conservatism with a tenacity almost passing beliefa quiet, steadfast, northing faith in them that one

human nature. The proclamation of the Virginia Governor gave great dissatisfaction to his people, and for many cars the lawless adventurers from the coast and river settlements kept up a series of raids upon the settlements on the eastern shore of Maryland that rendered them extremely obnoxious to their more peaceable and law-abiding neighbors, and brough many of the raiders to grief. So bitter became the feeling between the dwellers on either side of the Chesapeake, that in 1608, now that the business of eyster-eatching had assumed some importance, Cor issioners were appointed by the Crown to fix the bounds of Maryland and Virginia; and after much consultation and many surveys of a simple nature. the true divisional line between the two States on the eastern shore of the bay was settled upon as a line drawn across from Smith's Point, at the month the north side of Pocomoke Sound and Annamessix Bay-then known as Watkins Point-and extended to the Atlantic. Since that time many other surveys have the other have left the boundary line always in dispute. A survey made about ten years ago by Lieut. Michler of the U. S. Topographical Engineers, established the fact that Watkins Point theu lay a mile away from where it was when it served as the initial point from which the survey of 1608 was made. Maryland claimed in 1852, and subsequently in 1890, that Watkins Point (that was) is four or five miles south of the point so named by the State of Virginia, and,

upon this point haves the whole difficulty. In February last year, a joint Committee from the two Houses of the Maryland Legislature were appointed to meet a similar Committee appointed by the Legislature of Virginia, "to adjust and mark the eastern shore boundary between the two States, the results of their work to be submitted to the Legislatures of the said States for approval or rejection." The Commissioners, Dr. John W. Field, Col. Thomas Hall Kellam and Samuel W. Powell, on the part of Virginia; and Gen. Isaac D. Jones, Wm. J. Avdelott and Levin L. Waters, on the part of Maryland, met at Newtown, Worcester County, Maryland, on the 9th of September, 1867, and arranged for a new survey, which was begun on the 8th of November. After the engineer had finished his labors and was ready with his report the Boundary Commissioners met again at Crisfield, the southern terminus of the Eastern Shore Railroad, on the 2d of December, when the resurvey of the traditionary Calvert and Scarborough line of 1668, from the east bank of the Pocomoke to the Atlantic was discussed and accepted as correct. The Commissioners then accompanied the engineer while he surveyed the remainder of the dividing line, and then returned to Crisfield where they enjoyed a lively conference, which resulted in leaving the boundary question exactly where they found it. Watkins Point again protruded itself, and as before, acted as a stubborn wedge to keep asunder the two great Commonwealths so long at odds. Maryland claimed that Watkins Toint must be at Cedar Straits; that it could not be where Virginia insisted that it ought to be; and that Maryland would only agree to a boundary line proposed by Maryland herself, through her Commissioners. On the other hand Virginia held that Watkins Point was at the mouth of the Little Annamessix River; that it could not have moved: that the line proposed by Maryland would deprive Virginia of several acres of her island territory; and that while she claimed the entire Pocomoke River and Sound up to the northern shore, she waived any claim whatever to the mainland, which had so long been held by Maryland. Further, and in conclusion, Virginia would not accept the proposed line but would offer one herself, through her Commissioners -the only one, indeed, she could think of agreeing to under any circumstances. Virginia then marked out her line, but Maryland being unwilling to accept it the Commissioners separated in great good humor and sent in their little bills to the Legislatures of their respective States. The total expense attending the last survey was about \$2,200, of which Maryland paid \$1,078 964

If this Watkins Point could only be left out, or rubbed out of the discussions, or could be washed out by the waters of Tangier Sound or Pocomoke Bay, or the Little Annamessix River-for it is very hard to tell where Watkins Point is, or ought to be, and the wise men of Southern Maryland are beginning to doubt whether the ancient Watkins Point ever had any existence at all-the whole difficulty could be settled in half an hour by a committee of twoone from Accomac and one from the banks of the

Point would seem to have been the point, formed by Poconoke Bay and Tangier Sound, at Cedar Straits. This praphlet, with other documentary evidence of boundaries between Virginia and Maryland, was brought from Eugland in 1861 by Col. McDonald of Virginia, who was a commissioner appointed by the State for that purpose. These documents comprised nine volumes of thanuscript and one book of rare and valuable maps." They were among the archives of Virginia when Richmond was taken in 1805, and were carried away and hidden during the disorder that provailed subsequent to the occupation of the city by the Federal troops, since which time all traces of them have been lost. Col. McDonald helds that the original "Relation," which was in Latin, (the 1625 copy being a translation) placed the whole of the Potenne River within the limits of Virginia; but Cant. John Smith's map of the Chesapeake Bay, began in 1523, and finished in 1629, locates Cinquack, mentioned in Lord Baltimore's charter, south of the South bank of the Potomac, and on the bay shore. And in Montagner's History, published in Germany in 1670, or previously, Lord Baltimore's south-western boundary is the south bank of the Potomac. Virginia has often, especially in her compact with Maryland in 1785, recognized this as the charter boundary of Maryland. There should be a clearly-defined boundary line

across the Chesapenke Bay, dividing the waters claimed by Maryland from those which Virginia laims. The subject has been discussed and quarreled over for more than 200 years; and although the territory in dispute is hardly worth the expense of the various surveys and conferences and committee tours and pamphlets and bills that have naturally resulted from the difference of opinion concerning it. to say nothing of the lives that have been lost in the feud between the jealous adherents of both parties. the peculiar legislation of the two States on the subject of the oyster fishery renders some definite agreement indispensable. To decide upon the whereimpossibility, and instead of wasting more time in determining its intitude and longitude, it were better to forget that it ever helped to impede navigation, and with an eye single to the interests of the suffering people of the two disputing States their legislators should make a new treaty, draw a new line, revise and amend and otherwise improve their oyster hiws, and make the immense wealth bidden beneath the waters of the Chesapeake pay into the empty treasuries ten times the revenue they now derive from it. The line proposed by the Maryland Cemmissioners, namely, "From Emith's Point, at the mouth of the Petersee River, by the portest line to the southermost angle of Watkins Point (as now known), at Cedar Straits; thence to the channel of the Pocomoke River; thence with the channel up to a point opposite to the beginning of the 1938 line, and thence by that line to the Atlantic," seems to a disinterested person, both reasonable and equitable. A comparison of the old charts with the maps of our day shows that about twenty-three square tailes of territory properly belonging to Mary-hard are now contained within the limits of Virginiar a change of ownership due, without doubt, to some error in susveying. Gen. Jones, Chairman of the Maryland Commission, and now Atterney-General of the State, expresses the opinion that if the line were drawn as proposed by his Commission, only eight square miles of Maryland high land would fall south of it, leaving Virginia still the gainer. Besides, he says, "the fish and oysters in the waters adjacent to that part of Somerset County have, ever since the cettlement of the country, been the principal source of support for the serilers and their families, while they are many talks remote from any portion of the may call a positive outrage upon the credulity of people of Virginia. Besides, the State of Maryland, her citizens and others, are deeply interested as

sto 'cholders in the Eastern Shore Railroad Company, which has expended nearly a million dollars in railway internal improvements, by means of a record I line of magnificent steamers from Crisfield lands, a to Norfolk, forming the most direct, and one of the many a most imperiant theroughfares of freight and travel from Maine to Texas. Virginia is also deeply interangle of the wharf, leaving the harbor and the ce, armed with proper authority, be present, and lways ready for the prompt discharge of their duty.

ef both Vicginia and Maryland, that these waters should remain hereafter as they have always been heretefore, under the jurisdiction of Maryland.

At the regular session of the Maryland Legislature, last year, an Oyster Police force was provided for and immediately organized. The commander of the force, at one time an olicer in the U. S. Navy, was not long in making himself acquaints! with the difficulties that had previously hindered the execution of the Oyster law, and in the simplest way in the world never the way for a sweetly and offectual set. of the Oyster law, and in the simplest way in the world paved the way for a speedy and effectual settlement of a fend of 200 years' standing, without troubling the Legislature, and better still, without entailing expense upon the people of the State. He proposed to the Chief Inspector of Oysters of the State of Virginia that they should meet at some convenient point, and, after a full and free discussion, enter into an arrangement which, if sanctioned by the Legislatures of their respective States, might be made the basis of an enduring treaty. The two offimade the basis of an enduring treaty. The two offi-cers met at Crisfiield on the 11th of December last, and in the course of a few hours drew up and signed

and in the course of a few hours drew up and signed the following agreement:

Cassemin, Somewert Court, Mr., Dec. 11, 1972.

We, the undersigned, the Commander of the State Oyster Police Force of the State of Maryland, the Chief Inspector of Oysters for the State of Virginia, do hereby mutually agree to the Oyster Boundary Line, hereinafted described, as defining the limits of our operations under the Oyster Laws of our respective States, to the effect that the State Oyster Police force of the State of Maryland shall not interfere with any vessel, bont, or person that may be engaged in the cyster trade to the southward of said boundary line, and that the Yurginia Oyster that may be engaged in the cyster trade to the south-ward of said boundary line, and that the Virginia Oyster Force shall not interfere with any vessel, boat or person that may be engaged in the cyster trade to the northward

f said boundary line; Provided, That said boundary line shall have reference

only to the scaters of the Chesapenke Bay and the Tan-gier Sound, and in no way to affect any property or per-son on any land whatever: Iroxided, also, That said boundary line shall have no reference whatever to the establishment of boundary line hereafter, by the proper authorities, be tween our respective States; but be constructed as only tween our respective States, but be constructed as only establishing a line which limits the operations of the cyster forces of the States of Maryland and Virginia, in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Tangter Sound, subject at any time to modification, or annulinent, by the authorities of those States, or of the cyster forces respectively.

oyster boundary line shall commence at the south-The cyster boundary line shall commence at the southern extremity of the land lying between the little Annonessix River, and the Poconone's Sound at Cedar Straits; thence in a straight line to a point at mean low water mark, on the beach, due east of Evans's store, on Horse Hammock, Smith's Islands; thence following the low water mark to the southern extremity of the land lying between Tangier Sound, and Tyler's Creek, Smith's Islands; thence in a straight line to the Light-House on Smith's Point, at the mouth of the Potomac River.

Commanding State O. P. Force, Maryland, W. H. C. Lovitt, Chief Inspector of Oysters, State of Virginia.

This puts medicated aton to the "Oyster War"

This puts an effectual stop to the "Oyster War between Maryland and Virginia, unless the Legisla are of either State should, in its wisdom, see fit to until the agreement informally entered into by the dicers named above, who, from their position, their intelligence, and their intimate knowledge of the subject in all its bearings, are perhaps the best treaty-makers the two States could select to fix upon a boundary line dividing the great field from which so many thousands of the people of both derive their support, and which can be and should be made the source of a splendid revenue to each.
In the course of the different surveys made by the

In the course of the different surveys made by the two States many interesting facts were discovered and recorded, which, but for the quarrel, might never have been made known. Not far from the the great point in dispute is Jean's Island, "which," says Lieut. Michler in his report made in 1859, "according to Capt. John Nelson, aged 72 years, once extended to the present position of the light-ship, now anchored about a mile and a half out from the present shore line. Stumps of trees are said to exist in the marshes and in the water between the main land and Watti's Island, showing that it was once probably one continuous neck of land as far south as that island." Gen. Jones, in his report, mentions that 'a Mrs. Thomas, who lived on Jean's Island, and died there a few years ago at about 96 years of that "a Mis. Thomas, who lived on Jean's Island, and died there a few years ago at about 96 years of age, was often heard to say that she well remembered when a peach orchard stood about where the light-ship was anchored. According to these witnesses the island has washed away a mile and a half within a hundred years—say since 1768. How much did it wash away in the preceding hundred years, from 1668, and

and Scarborough line between the Pocomoke River and the Atlantic, it was found that four houses, two families, and a mill, which had been for years considfamilies, and a mill, which had been for years considered component rarts of one great State, were really within the limits of the other. A more important discovery, growing out of the investigations incident to the settlement of the boundary question, was that in the most popular maps of the State of Maryland, Mason and Dixon's line is made to begin at Cape Henlopen, whereas it begins at the South-Western cover of Delaware at a noint midway between the

Mason and Dixons the South-Western corner of Delawere at a point midway between the Atlantic and the Chesapeake.

In their report to the General Assembly the Maryland Boundary Commissioners suggested the advissibility of repealing the act of the General Assembly of 1860, chapter 1850, which provided for the running of the southern boundary line of the State from Smith's Point "to the southernmost angle of the body of land defined" as Watkins Point, and expressed the belief that if, on the repeal of this act, Virginia should repeal her resolutions which are supposed to restrict her Commissioners, the Commissioners of the two States, being relieved of this embarrasament, and left free to agree upon a divisor of the sections of the two States, being relieved of this embarrasament, and left free to agree upon a divisor of the sections of the section of the sections of t embarrasament, and left free to agree upon a divi-sional line, subject to the milification or rejection by their respective Legislatures, will, at their next somal line, subject to the ratification or rejection by their respective Legislatures, will, at their next Conferences, experence no difficulty in making an amicable adjustment. "If this reasonable expectation should be disappointed, and no agreement or complouise can be arrived at, there will then remain only the remedy by a bill in the Supreme Court of the United States, to obtain the decision of that tribunal upon the matters in controversy. Maryland can certainly lose nothing by an appeal to that tribunal. She would be remitted to her original chartered rights as to this line; and if she should be held to the agreement of 1628 as to the Calvert and Scarborough line, she will be entitled to have that line run due enst, as that agreement calls for. It has been but a few years since the mistake in the original running of the line, five degrees north of cast, was discovered. The legal principles involved were fully settled by the Supreme Court in the case of the State of Rhode Island against the State of Massachusetts, reported in 12th Peters."

Besides the difficulties growing out of inter-State questions. Maryland and Virginia have had others to vex them—domestic troubles, oyster troubles, arising from an uncoatfollable desire on the part of their people to break the Gyster laws made for their protection and for the entithing of the 1wo mighty Commonwealths. Time was when the dredgera of

their people to break the Cyster laws made for their protection and for the entiching of the two mighty Commonwealths. Time was when the dredgers of Accounce would run up to Deal's Island, or to where Painxent opes her mouth to greet the Chesnpeske, and from the waters thereabout, with scrape and drag and scoop, would steal the shelly weath that hid therein, and laugh defiance and contempt at those who sought to interdict them. Time was, too, when pungues from the Nanticoke, the Choptank, and the Amannessix, Big and Little-streams all within the pale of Maryland-would ran down to Account, or cross the flay to the month of York, or scoop, serape, or drag Virginia skill and plead mal-luse treasure. For many, namely years these foreign were kept up; and seldom did the maranding fleet come within good title range of the opposing shore without a hostile welcome from the jealous dwellers on the land. When Virginia met Maryland upon the on the land. When virginia met Maryand upon the open water, or upon oyster-ground as yet debatable, then came the tag of war. Not a league from the shorrs of Account, a score of years ago, was fought a bitter battle between the pungy fleets. It lasted for nearly three hours, and resulted in the loss of several lives. The weapons used were old-fashioned muskets, within and duckness, long to the barrel, wide of ives. The weapons used were old-fashioned muskets, tiles, and duck-guns, long in the barrel, wide of mazzle, and lond-mouthed as modern three-pounders. An old resident of Tangler Island, who heard he sound of the number war, and has heard nothing the it since, save the report of the hitle howitzer on he Maryland police steamer Kent, declares it to mave been a most terrific affair. According to his eccount, the superstitions residents of Tangler heaght that the crack of doom was being anomed, and that they stood on rain. They could be induced trembling about them as in an ague fit. The universal frame scenaed so locse that it but rafited another shock to shake it from its hinges, the older men and women had listened never since have they reposed implicit faith in their prophets and priests and wise men. Your years after the naval engagement above men-

narantes as to the and than, and some, fraction in ourts. When the Virginia Oyster Law was passed, and the State's inferest were guarded by valuat men who craised her waters in scarch of malefactors, and ight many, and mulated them in sums that pineles on hard to pay, there was more caution displayed the oystermen who would dredge without per it, as well as by those from Maryland whom Vir ginia would not allow to dredge at all. Then, in time, the Maryland cysters, being far from the salt sea, and washed by the fresh waters that poured in upon them in measureless volume, were found to be less toothsome, and, therefore, of smaller market value than those in the Virginia beds; so the Virvalue than those in the Virginia beds; so the Vir-ginians no longer dredged beyond the limits which the law had marked, but confined themselves to their own territory, leaving their brethien of beyond the Potomac and Pocomoke the undisputed right to tong Potomac and Pocomone the undisputed right to tong and scoop, scrape, drag, and dredge, wheresoever they pleased within the bounds of Maryland. Virginia now began to derive considerable revenue from "her teeming beds beneath the Chesapeake's transheemt tide," and in the waters of her numer-

transitecut tide, she in the waters of her maker-ous creeks and rivers flowing into the Hay. Many of her ablest men interested themselves in the study of the oyster, and smong them Henry A. Wise was con-spicuous for some years. His interminable essays on the "Oyster Fundum" contained much important information concerning the extent of the Chesa-peake beds, the annual yield of the cyster and valupeake beds, the annual yield of the cyster and valuable suggestions in regard to the proper califyation of the bivaive. He also proposed important amendments to the cyster law of his State, and was the means of effecting such changes in it as to make the water-wealth of Virginia contribute a very fair proportion of her fueone. Mr. Yeatman too, at that time a member of Congress, did much to develop the cyster interests of Virginia.

All this time the Legislature of Maryland was doing little or nothing to protect the rights of the cystermen in her waters, and nothing whatever to render her almost limitless cyster beds a source of revenue to the State. Article 71 of the Code of Public General Laws, entitled "Oysters," was repealed in 1867, and refinacted with amendments. In March, 1868, the act of the previous year was repealed; but,

in 1867, and refinated with amendments. In March, 1868, the act of the previous year was repealed; but, while the new law is a great improvement upon the old one, it is very defective, as will be hereinafter shown, and should be so amended as to meet the requirements of a rapidly increasing nopulation, and a trade which must ere long, if properly guanded, give employment to ten times the number of people now engaged in it, and add millions, directly and indirectly, to the wealth of the State.

By this act of the Maryland Legislature an Oyster Police Force was nowided for, and shoully afterward

Police Force was provided for, and shortly afterward a steamer was chartered and manned and placed under command of a competent officer. This provision will command of a competent oncer. This possion was prove to be the protocol to the last chapter in the long history of the "Oyster War" which the people of the United States have been reading by paragraphs for so many long years. The Force, ably managed by a thorough sailor and an educated gentleman withal, has already been the means of nearly doubling the oyster revenue of the State, although it did not begin to revenue of the State, although it did not begin to operate until May, 1868. Since that time it has also succeeded in partially breaking up the warfare that has been waged for a long time between the dredgers of Somerset County and the tongmen of Dorchester—a fued in which many lives have been lost, much valuable property destroyed, and much bad feeling engendered for the descendants of the belligerants to fight out or subdue with the aid of civilized men and equitable laws.

THE OYSTER LAW OF VIRGINIA. The provisions of this law, as modified by Gen. J. M. Schofield, commanding the First Military District, are, as far as they are of interest to the general pub-

are, as far as they are of interest to the general public, substantially as follows:
It is unlawful to take or catch oysters in the waters of Virginia during the months of June, July, and August.

Non-residents cannot take or plant oysters in Virginia waters, or in the Potomac or Pocomeke. These rivers are free, however, to the people of Maryland. The law does not allow non-residents to plant, but they may purchase oysters from residents and bed them in these waters for 90 days.

The dredge is not to be used in water less than 30 feet deep in the Bay, or 20 feet in Pocomoke and Taugier Sounds.

every citizen who is engaged in oystering shall pay \$5 25 per annum for the privilege.

Masters of vessels of five tons and over must obtain a license to purchase from residents or employ them in catching systers. The owner of planted systers may send to market without a license, but all who ship to market must, before loading, pay three cents per bushel as tax on their cargoes, estimating a vessel to carry 25 bushels for every 100 cubic feet of her capacity. It is left optional with masters to pay by the bushel or by the tun. Where the latter method is preferred, a tax of \$3 per tun is layied.

The collection of the tax, as well as the business of

resident of the county in which he makes application, and the person licensed is required to have the number of his license pointed on his boat.

No divelying is allowed within the limits of any county

f the State. (The Attorney-General, however, has re-only decaded that this does not prohibit dredgers from lying their vecation in the waters of a river or creek iming the boundary between the two counties.) of the State. within

When an offense is committed against the law within the limits of any county, the offender shall be tried by a Justice of the Peace within that county; but if committed beyond such limits, but within those of the State, then any Justice of the Peace, or the Circuit Court of the county most convenient of access from the place where the effense is committed, shall have jurisdiction; and in case of the acquittal of the party accused the Courtoller shall pay the cost out of the Cyster Find.

The officer in charge of the Cyster Find.

The officer in charge of the Cyster Find.

The officer in charge of the Cyster Find, and considering the law, and selze the vessels of all such. He shall take the accused before the proper Justice, and make charges against them in the name of the State, whereupon the Justice shall proceed minaciately to try the cases, unless, &c.

The taking of cysters on Sunday is prohibited.

Owners of land herdering on any of the navigable rivers of the State shall have the exclusive privileges of protecting, sowing, bedding, or depositing systers or

rivers of the State shall have the exclusive privileges of "protecting, sowing, bedding, or depositing systers or other shell-instead within the lines of their own hand. Owners of land bordering upon nav of the waters of the State shall have power to locate and appropriate in any of such waters five acres for the purpose of prescrying, bedding, or sowing oysters, &c. \* \* and my other citizen of the State shall have power to locate and appropriate five acres in any waters of said State and already located and appropriated, provided that fendays motice in writing shall be given to the owner or occupant of the lands lying on the water proposed to be located." Such owner or occupant shall have priority of claim; but if he shall fail to locate within ten days after receiving the notice it shall be open and free to any citizened the State who shall flave given such notice. The appropriation shall be marked by stakes, a descrip-

the cysterman to display his number on a flag, or on the fore or mainsail: whereas the number should be stamped or painted upon the most conspicuous part of the mainsail, in figures at least 18 inches in length. of the mainsail, in figures at least 18 inches in length, and of a uniform style to be adopted by the Controller, who should require the marking of the pungles to be performed by a suitable officer at the time the licenses are taken out. The objection to this is that the numbers are changed every year. This can be easily overcome by issuing, in 1862, to John Smith, who held license No. 101 in 1868, a license bearing the same number, and when John Smith applies in 1850 let him again be authorized to carry 101 at 1/s mainsail peak, and so on, till he changes his vessel.

the law.

These are a few of the most prominent defects in the law itself. In the execution of it there are many difficulties which the next Assembly would do well to legislate upon. For instance, Somerset, one of the best oyster counties in the State, has a special license law for the benefit of the County School Fund; and under this law licenses are issued for one year from date, and are consequently expiring at all times. This is a source of much confusion, and renders the detection of frand in certain cases almost impossible; detection of fraud in certain cases almost impossible; for under the State law all licenses are dated Jan. 1. The clerk of this county is in the habit of issuing The clerk of this county is in the habit of issuing county dredging licenses upon State licenses to long, and this is another source of confusion to the oystermen. It also renders the law unpopular, and frequently hinders the proper execution of it. A simple act of the General Assembly requiring all licenses to expire on the 1st of September, would simply it the matter.

The Oyster Police Commission is composed of the Governor, Treasurer, Controller, Superintendent of Labor and Agriculture, and the Clerk of the Court of Appeals. The communicer of the force is required to make a monthly report to the Commission concerning the service rendered by the force; and in the special

make a monthly report to the Commission concerning the service rendered by the force; and in the special act of April, 1808, establishing the Bureau of Labor and Emigration, it is provided:

That for the purpose of inquiring into the undeveloped resources of the wealth of the State, within the Boilts of the Chesapeake Bay and its iributaries, the Superintendent of Labor and Agrical ure may, with the concurrence of this co-Commissioners of the State Oyster Police Force, require the commanding officer of said force to make such inquiries, and excumnations as will tend to develop the overlet fisheries, and preserve them as a permaneut source. oysier fisheries, and preserve them as a permanent source of revenue to the State; and the said commanding officer-shall frequently report the result of his investigations to the said Superintendent.

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE CHESAPEAUX Many intelligent citizens of Maryland who feel a leep interest in the prosperity of the State, and who

desire to have all her resources developed and made available to her people, and through them, to the world at large, take the ground that the Ovster law is in many respects an unjust one—unjust to the people who must live by the oyster, unjust to those people who must live by the oyster, unjust to those who make it an article of commerce, and detrimental to the interests of the State. They hold that neither Viginia nor Maryland has the right to claim jurisdiction over the waters of the Chesapeake, and that the oyster-beds of the Bay should be opened to the vessels of all the States, subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the Congress of the United States. A strong effort is now being made in Baltimore—and it is seconded by the voters of one of the Somerset County districts in the very heart of the oyster lands—to throw the Bay into the hands of the General Government, and allow people from all the General Government, and allow people from all the States to take the shell-fish in its waters. That this would fend to encourage immigration into the State there can be but little doubt. It would deprive her of a certain income from her oyster-beds, but her trade growing out of a more vigorous development of these resources of wealth would be vastly increased. It is objected to this proposition that to make the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake the property of the Government, and to make them common fishing ground for all the States, would be to atterly ruin the island population of the castern shore, whose sole subsistence is derived from the oyster fishery; to materially injure Baltimore as an oyster-packing and oyster-shipping port, and in the course of a very few years to port; and, in the course of a very few years to destroy all the beds not owned by private individuals and protected by officers of the law. The objectors claim that now the war is over, and the people of Maryland are striving, against difficulties, to recover Maryland are striving, against difficulties, to recover from the effects of the great change in their system of labor, they should have the full benefit of all the resources of the State, and that to deprive them of the oyster revenue would add largely to the burdens of taxation already borne by the farmers.

The advocates of the change make this answer:

"The people of the islands of the eastern shore, per-baps, next to the sand-hillers and dirt-eaters of the haps, next to the sand-hillers and dirt-caters of the Carolinas, the most ignorant white people within the borders of the Republic, would be improved socially, mentally, and morally, by having new channels opened to them. They do nothing but oyster. Their forefathers, for 200 years, scooped, scraped, dragged, and dredged the oyster. They lived upon the oyster. The oyster was their thought at morn, and noon, and night. When they feasted, the oyster was their piece de resistance, and when they fought, it was on oyster grounds, and not an grounds of policy as others did and do to-day. Their short-lived grief found vent in lamellibranchiate teats, and when they smiled the unimuscular effort was like that of the bivalve engaged in taking in his food. Their descendants cannot laugh. The old-time mirth has given way to oyster-ity, and although they are not crossed in love as oysters are, and do not breathe the snister-Witnesses the island has washed away a mile within a hundred years—say large to said a half within a hundred years—say large to said a half within a hundred years—say three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by this law. Each inspector commands a steamer, and released in taking in his food. Their descendants in the first six cannot laugh. The old-time mirth has given way to oyster-ity, and although they are not crossed in love as oysters are, and do not breathe the subterliers. He is clothed with all the powers of a sheriff, and of the charter?" In retracing the traditional Calvert of the charter?" In retracing the traditional Calvert of the aking arrests, ac., is performed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three inspectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by three hispectors, one of the districts formed by three hispectors, one to each of the districts formed by the late waters. It is elected an analysing the properties of the control of the tax, as well as the

and houses built, and schools opened. Let these prope be brought in daily communication with the outer world, and taught to know that the visual line that girts them round is not the world's extreme, and that the end and aim of life is not oysters; that life's thorough fare is not bounded by oyster-beds; and that though in a single hour every oyster should be removed far beyond the reach of their longtoothed tongs and wide-monthed scrapers, and drags, and dredges, earth and sea have still other food for them; for Kature's resources were not exhausted when she made the oyster. What the Islanders want most is the refining influences of civilization. These they can never have if no inducement is offered to the stranger to come among them. Therefore, let us invite the world to come in and lish according to law.

Now, as to the righty to Baltimore in the event of transfarring the property in the cyster-beds of the Chesapeake to the Government; In that city there are about 40 establishments wholly or in part engaged in cyster-packing and pickling. Of these, five or six do the greater part of the business, and two of these own islands in the bay or its tributaries, where all their stock is prepared for market. For cystermen in the Maryland waters there can be for many years (unless the State throw off her torpor, and build roads and dig cands to the water-side) no better market than Baltimore. Philadelphia has always been a large purchaser of the Chesapeake oyster, and so has New-York; but neither has ever engaged to any extent in packing or pickling. Of this branch of the trade Baltimore has never ceased to enjoy the menopoly, by reason of the same eigennatures which bid fair to continue her in that enjoyment for many years to come. She is but about 100 miles from the southern limit of the Maryland ovster territory, from which she purchases nearly all her cysters, because they are better for canning than the more salty ones from Virgina; she enjoys a prestince which it will take a long time and a host of rivals to de to her estizens, who will not sell their cargoes away from Baltimore, unless another customer offers better prices. In my competition of this kind, it is not likely that Baltimore can be author. Sine cannot suffer should be give the oyster interest to the Government. Therefore, let us havite the world to come in and fish according to law.

But, you say, in the course of a few years, there will be no oysters to take, if the world come in. Granted—that is, if the Government take no steps to to prevent the destruction of the old bads, and to encourage the planting of new ones. Let the United

to prevent the destruction of the old beds, and to en-courage the planting of new ones. Let the United States Oyster Commissioners—for there will be such officers one of these days—follow the example of some of the Reman emperors, and mark out subcaria in the broad waters, which shall belong to the Gov-ernment to have and to hold forever; and do as Na-poleon is deing now on the shores of the liste of K6, and at Areachen and elsewhere slong the maritime berders of his cupire, to keep his people supplied with the most delicious cysters in the world; and likeling steet in improve the blysive, and by sainwith the most delicious cysters in the world; and like his appropriation shall be marked by stakes, a description made ander the oath of a surveyor, and the same recorded in the County Clerk's office. (Section 23)

Every vessel cragged in dredging shall have the number of the license painted upon the fore or manssail, or on a white flag in black letters of large size, which number shall be exposed to view while the vessel is dredging.

The law is very proficular in regard to the measuring of oysters, and the scaling and inspecting of the measuring of oysters, and the scaling and inspecting of the measuring who shall pay \$50 each for their license.

The lines imposed for the violation of the Cyster Law range from \$5 to \$500, and in certain cases the vessel of the offender is forfeited. The stealing of inspedded or planted oysters is made a felony, punishable with impresement in the penitentiary for a term of from one to five years.

There are many defects in this law, some of which it may not be market, unless they are also engaged in dredging. It requires the number of the vessel to the dishonest dredgers—and their name is legion—and really enables them to food in the local wind and their name is legion—and really enables them to food in the local who will never full to yield in the lond where it is now a costly luxury. It shall be now that the pays tens now. It shall be found in front of very door that opens upon salt water; and on many a table in the lead where it is now a costly luxury. It shall be now a costly luxury. It shall be now a continue of the wind and the pays tens now. It shall be found in front of the licensing of them, and the calling of them, the planting of them, and the calmy to the calmy to the plant, and the calmy to the calmy to the plant, and the calm

meet her, and where, this solidary and warmth, and food to millions of grust-clad, dainty creatures, such as never left the Rutaplan bed, and were never torn from the Lucrine rock. These shall be of such strength and dayor, that to them the cysters that Apicius cooked shall be as 'leuten kale to braw beef-brewis.' Therefore, for this reason if for no

their many sons at dinner-time, to! none were missing side of the line. The channel of that river, though doep, is narrow and to there was great by all along the shore that they and unobstructed access to the part of Chishold at all times, expecially to the regular line.

Other battles there were at various times, some, and to protect the harbor and channel for navigation, it is absolutely necessary that an efficient possible arrow with an all times, expecially to the regular possible arrow and the State's interest were guarded by valiant men. in the limits of the State a felony punishable by imprisonment in the Penikentiary, leaving the market to be supplied by tongmen who should sell to vessels regularly engaged in the carrying trade. This would keep Philadelphia oyster printes out of the Chesapeake as dredgers, and make them purchasers instead. It would enable every oyster painter to keep up his stock and to improve it by careful culture, while at the same time he could make a comfortable subsistence for his family without being obliged to sail far from home to perform his labor.

It has also been proposed to open the Chesapeake and all its tributaries within the State to all the citizens of Maryland, thus doing away with county

zens of Maryland, thus doing away with county water lines, and repealing all local laws regarding the oyster fishery. Should this measure be carried a new oyster war would break out within a month the oyster fishery. Should this measure be carried, a new oyster war would break out within a month, and it would require not only the oyster police force but the militia also to quell it. All the private beds in the State would be despoiled. These he in the creeks, rivers, coves, and inlets of the bay, and contain the choleest cysters. The tong-men would be driven out by the dredgers, and until the planters were protected by the strong arm of the law, and the timeraut tong-men shelded from harm by the same power, the pengy-men, as in the olden time, would have everything their own way, and the cyster interest of Maryland would be of but hitle value to the State or the houest citizens thereof. Even now, with strong prohibitory laws enforced by a faithful police, there is a regular system of robbery carried on by the dredgers of Semerset upon the tong-men of Dorchester, and when the snoke-stack of the steamer Kent is not in sight, the "Dorchesters," as they are called, are in hourly dread of an attack upon them by the "Somersetters" in their pungies. A few days ago the Kent was boarded by two canoe-men who had three hours before been driven from their own cyster-beds, by Somerset dredgers armed with Spencer rilles. These lawless oystermen, during the chase, fired several times upon the peaceable tongers from Porchester, placing them in imminent peril of their lives. One of the swift balls from a well-aimed 7-shooter passed through the mainsail, a very few mehes above the helmsman's unkempt head. The unarmed figitives were mites away from their own waters when they claimed the protection of the police, and did not dare to return to their homes until their enemies had finished the protection of the police, and did not dare to re-turn to their homes until their chemics had finished dredging, and home away southward for the shores of Somerset, or until they themselves could be towed

of Somerset, or until they themselves could be towed in, under the wing of the Kent.

Whatever law may be enacted by the Legislature, a strong marine constabulary force will always be needed to keep the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake clear of pirates. There are handreds of rough, unprincipled men along her shores who have known no other life than that of the cysterman, and who, in the dull seasons, have occupied themselves in termenting the quiet people. Many of these scourges belong to the class known as "Baltimore Plug-Uglies," and in former years, whenever muscular service was needed in that city during a political campaign, they entered the arena and battled for this candidate or that with a ferceity never equaled clsewhere. Their mean, low, cunning, brital mode elsewhere. Their mean, low, cunning, brutal mode of warfare on land has made them well known al over the world, and but for the lack of enterprise and energy displayed by the Maryland press in collecting and publishing the annals of their career as freebootand publishing the annals of their career as freebooters and filibusters, they would be hardly less celebrated for their rascally deeds on the water. The parties, however, are not all Marylanders. Some of them hail from Philadelphia, and are probably the naval forces belonging to the army of "Killers" who for so long were a terror to the law-abiding Quaker City folks. Not many years ago the Controller of the State of Maryland was anthorized to charter a vessel and seize any one found trespassing on forbidden waters, but the pirates were too many for the officers of the law. So bold did they become that as late as February last year a portion of their fleet sailed into the harbor of Annapolis and defied the law, right under the shadow of the State House. A force was sent out to take the captains and men of the maranding flotalla, but the posse considers was driven back. ing flotilia, but the posse comitains was driven back, and the officer in command captured, taken aboard the flag-pungy, treated with the greatest indignity, and then sent ashore with a warning never to inter fere with the pungy-men again. It is gratifying to be able to record that the Controller lost no time in arming two vessels, which, after a lost no time in arming two vessels, which, after a sharp tight, succeeded in overcoming the enemy, putting the better part of his fleet to flight, and making prizes of two well-armed and well-manned pungles laden with sandry bushels of excellent oysters. It is believed that but for this naval engagement, so close to the halls in which the General Assembly are wont to sit in peace and comfort, the new law of 1858 would not have been passed. There would then have been no Oyster Police Force, and no steamer to chase and overhand unlicensed dredgers. No lond-mouthed howitzer would then send ers. No lond-monthed howitzer would then send warning to impredent pungy-men, and the dozen muskets which now adorn the cabin of the Kent

tret. He may act as informer and receive one-half the many act as informer and an infraction of certain the fine for the volution of an infraction of certain to the instance in the receiver also the information of the cupies the infraction of the cupies to the land allowed to rule the land allowed to rule and the receiver and the rec

Virginia is infested by highwaymen, who rob stage-conches in the old-fashion style.

An Alabama paper announces that it will not, hereafter, take payment in dogs. A yellow silk handkerchief made of spiders

webs has been exhibited at a fair in Bermuda. Large numbers of converts to the Catholie

Church are reported among the negroes of the South. The way "gizzard" used to be spelled in old times, was as follows: "G-i-izzard, giz-, iszard-a-rd,

Sparrows are carefully protected in Mississipps, that they may feed on the cotton-worms a few

months bence. The Boston Peace Festival has been ansounced in the English papers. The Pall Mall Gazette teles to make fee of it.

The English judges promptly rebuke any

journal of emmence which presumes to offer an opinion on on unfinished law suit. Peppermint has become so prevalent in Wayne County, N. Y., that over fifty peppermint distil-

teries will be built next Spring. Chinese ladies used to learn to play musical matruments, but the fushion is now out, and they have nothing to do but goesly.

"Pound parties" are now fashionable in Boston. Those invited are expected to contribute one pound at least of something to cat. Mr. Edwin Forrest recently refused a New-Otleans engagement, because one of the couditions wa

that he should play Sunday night. A dog at Dubuque, Iowa, has saved the lives of four persons, and has the unmurried "freedom of the city " as a reward for his good services.

The belle of a recent ball at New-Albany, Ind. was recognized as a woman who carned her living by begging at a street corner dressed in fifthy rags.

A man has just been sentenced to three months' imprisonment by a court in Vienna for speaking disrespectfully of Marin Theresa, who died in 1780.

A Chicago paper sacers at Milwaukee as a small town, because it did not have women enought to get up a quarrel at the recent weman's convention in the latter The bullet that killed Nelson, at Trafalgar,

is in the possession of Queen Victoria. It is set in preclous stones, and inclosed in a golden case shaped like a Faint heart never won fair lady. A plucky Colorado miner writes as follows to his lady-love: "Seven

yeres is rather long to kort a gal, but ilo have you yit, Cate, you bet." The English Registrar-General complains of the execuble handwriting of the clergymen of the

Kingdom." He can't make out their registry of births, marriages and deaths. Disregard for the Lenten observances seems to be increasing in Italy. Pleasure now occupies as nine a

time, apparently, as at periods not set apart by the Canrel for religious abstinence. Fine specimens of genuine turkois have been aken from a Nevada mine, and one of the most beauti

is to be presented to the Sovereign of Persia, by whom such things are highly esteemed. A new knapsack has been introduced into the British army. It is in the shape of a game-bag, and is carried on the loles, with supporting straps so arranged

as to leave the chest and arms free. There is a widow in Nashville, Tenn., 114 years old, who culoys the pensions of three husbands, all

f whom served in the Revolutionary war. Her name is Dinah Vics. She has 400 decendants. Life, says Herbert Spencer, is the definite com-

bination of definite composite heterogeneous changes, both simultaneous and successive, in correspondence with external coexistence and sequences. Of 7.614 medical cases reported for 1867, at

the Central Medical Bureau of France, there were only two cases in which bleeding was prescribed. In 1859, the number of bleeding prescriptions was 1,256. Sportsmen who go duck-shooting at the Dampling," opposite Newport, R. L. say that they lose

much of their game after shooting it because seals, which are numerous there, selze the game before it can be Judge Brewster of Philadelphia, in pronouncing a sentence last week, said that the public had come

to regard nearly all murderers as either heroes or man tyrs-heroes if they escaped punishment, martyrs if they A Southern editor is bitterly opposed to the education of wemen as surgeons. Suppose, he says, a

gentleman were put under the influence of chloroform by such a dectress-what is to prevent the woman from kissing him ! The undertakers of Washington are forming a protective union association. They propose to adopt a cash system hereafter, and have made out a "black

list" of such families as have failed to pay their bills for funeral services. The Viceroy of Egypt illuminates his park with thousands of gas-lights, and has ladies dancing to

the waltzes of Strauss in his palace, bedecked in the

latest Paris fashious. The ladies of his harem now ride out in open carriages. The Paris Sport says that the ladies of fashion are laying by their chignons, and the trade is false hair is dying out, except so far as it supplies an ion tation of natural bair for ladies who need it. Hair, in

other words, ceases to be used as a head-dress. "Chinese Gordon," the young English officer who was Commander-in-Chief of the "Ever Victorious Celestial army in 1863-'64, resumed the duties of an ordinary Captain of Engineers on his return to England, and

is now quietly at work building obscure fortifications. An asylum for cats has been established in a square near Regent's Park, London. It is a small house of two stories, with a large garden attached, where the numerous cats have their sports and pastimes. The asy-

lum is conducted by a matron, an assistant, and a cock. It is proposed in Great Britain to celebrate, by a grand display, the hundredth birthday of Sir Waitef Scott, August 15, 1871. It will be similar, it is said, to the great Shakespearian Jubilee, projected by David Gar-

rick, and celebrated at Stratford-on-Avon, Sept. 6-8, 1169.

A "Cat suit" has just been decided in Baltimore. The plaintiff sued out a writ of replevin for & favorite Maltese cat. The defendant claimed \$13 20 for boarding the cut 132 days, at 10 cents a day. Judgment for plaintiff, with one cent damages and cost from de-

A Houston (Texas) editor recently concealed imself and fired half a dozen shots at another editor He shot so wildly that his enemy was unburt, but a lette boy was fatally wounded. The Galseston Bulleton refers to the affair as an " unhappy affray between two editorial

Nasby is particularly disgusted with the decison of the Manhattan Club to have his Democratic friends sent to prison when they commit murder or theft. He sees new prison buildings in prospect, however, if the present orders are kept in force, and hoves to get a fal